



## Take Out Hunger Food Donation Program

### Voluntary Participation Agreement

As \_\_\_\_\_, I, \_\_\_\_\_, confirm that  
(Representative's Position/Title) (Representative's Name)

\_\_\_\_\_ is voluntarily participating  
(Name of Business/Organization) (Establishment Permit #, if applicable)  
in the Harris County Environmental Public Health Division's **Take Out Hunger** program and understand the terms and conditions of the program as stated below:

#### Intent of Program

- The mission of **Take Out Hunger** is to reduce hunger in Harris County by providing food establishments the food safety education & resources necessary to support safe food donation.
- **Take Out Hunger** also aims to raise public awareness about the issues of food waste and food insecurity through program activities and community outreach.

#### Harris County Environmental Public Health (EPH) Division's Roles and Responsibilities

- District investigators will perform permitting, routine, and/or complaint inspections according to standard operating procedures, regardless of establishment's participation in the **Take Out Hunger** program. Participating establishment acknowledges that it will be held to the same Texas Food Establishment Regulations (TFER) and standards as non-participating establishments. Participation in **Take Out Hunger** does not influence nor affect participating establishment's inspection scores or frequency.
- District investigators are allowed to enforce food donation regulations as stated in Section 228.83 of the TFER. This may include asking questions regarding donation practices, reviewing related documentation, and making recommendations.
- **Take Out Hunger** coordinator will act as a liaison between participating food establishments and EPH. The program will provide participants food safety trainings for donations, donation process consultations, and reasonable donation coordination support.

#### Participating Establishment's Roles & Responsibilities

- The person(s) in charge of the food establishment will complete the food safety trainings developed to promote safe food donations offered by **Take Out Hunger**.
- The person(s) in charge of the food establishment will train new staff/volunteers directly involved in food donations activity and maintain records of those trainings.
- If the participating establishment received any equipment or supplies from **Take Out Hunger** specifically to facilitate safe food donation activity:

- Establishment agrees to not use dedicated equipment or supplies for purposes other than food donations activities.
  - Establishment understands that equipment or supplies that are lost, stolen, or damaged may not be replaced by **Take Out Hunger**.
- The person(s) in charge or a designee will communicate in a timely manner with the **Take Out Hunger** coordinator when major issues arise relating to any aspect of the donation process (examples: can't get in touch with recipient partner, donor abruptly stops donating).
- Participating establishment agrees that it will not claim or imply that its participation constitutes Harris County Public Health approval or endorsement of anything other than its participation in the **Take Out Hunger** program and will not make statements or imply that Harris County Public Health endorses the participant or the purchase/sale of the participant's products or services or the views of the participant's organization.
- Participating establishment understands that at any time it may terminate participation in **Take Out Hunger** program.

By signing below, I am stating that I understand **Take Out Hunger** requirements, and that I have the authority to register the food establishment named above in the **Take Out Hunger** program.

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(Representative's Signature)

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(Today's Date)